

that, if its practical value has not been apparent to the public of the Colony, they must be regarded as lacking the capacity for intelligent appreciation in such matters. Certainly, as far as my opinion goes, the Bulletin item from the Observatory as an exploit and satisfactory as could be desired, needing only the more rapid communication which is about to be provided to put them to their proper use. In no respect but this—namely, the somewhat greater issue of weather intelligence—does it seem to me that there is any room for increasing the practical advantages of the Observatory to the Hongkong community. Further, I think they will be increased in the natural course of things, as the fact which practical results hitherto unobtainable may be deduced are collected year by year. As to the fourth head of the Commission's enquiry, I can give no answer, though it is evident that, as the object with which the Observatory was founded was in a large measure scientific, no complaint on the ground of scientific work appearing in the Bulletin is out of place, as long as the practical part is kept apart. Whether the Director gives any appreciable part of his time to scientific research outside the limits of the original plan, I am unable to say. But my impression is that he does not, and cannot do so. I should say that, with his present short-handed staff, the great amount of routine work that he has to get through is altogether prohibitive of all scientific research. I think I remember having seen in his annual reports of 3 or 4 years ago some mention of a few observations of Jupiter and Saturn, and of Double Stars, and Meteors. But the state of the Observatory is proof enough to my mind that, even had he the leisure which I do not believe in, he can be doing no work of such a kind at present, or at any rate, not of a character to which any useful result could possibly be taken. I have observed that he from time to time sends communications to the Meteorological Society, as well as to the "Observatory," "Astronomical," "Nature," and other periodicals. All of these relate to scientific results deduced from his legitimate work here. They are things which he is proud to know, and his publication in the press of Hongkong, and its accordance with practice everywhere to permit them.

As to the second part of the fifth head of enquiry, as well as to the head of the Commission's enquiry, I can give no answer, though it is evident that, as the object with which the Observatory was founded was in a large measure scientific, no complaint on the ground of scientific work appearing in the Bulletin is out of place, as long as the practical part is kept apart. Whether the Director gives any appreciable part of his time to scientific research outside the limits of the original plan, I am unable to say. But my impression is that he does not, and cannot do so. I should say that, with his present short-handed staff, the great amount of routine work that he has to get through is altogether prohibitive of all scientific research. I think I remember having seen in his annual reports of 3 or 4 years ago some mention of a few observations of Jupiter and Saturn, and of Double Stars, and Meteors. But the state of the Observatory is proof enough to my mind that, even had he the leisure which I do not believe in, he can be doing no work of such a kind at present, or at any rate, not of a character to which any useful result could possibly be taken. I have observed that he from time to time sends communications to the Meteorological Society, as well as to the "Observatory," "Astronomical," "Nature," and other periodicals. All of these relate to scientific results deduced from his legitimate work here. They are things which he is proud to know, and his publication in the press of Hongkong, and its accordance with practice everywhere to permit them.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.		
CLOSING QUOTATIONS.		
THURSDAY, 1st May.		
EXCHANGE.		
LONDON.—		
Telegraphic Transfer	3/3	
Bank Bills, on demand	3/3	
Bank Bills, at 30 days sight	3/3	
Bank Bills, at 3 months sight	3/3	
Credits, at 4 months sight	3/3	
Documentary Bills, 4 months sight	3/3	
PARIS.—		
Bank Bills, on demand	411	
Credits, at 4 months sight	—	
GERMANY.—		
on demand	330	
after sight	—	
NEW YORK.—		
Bank Bills, on demand	791	
Credit, 30 days sight	81	
ROMA.—		
Telegraphic Transfer	228	
Bank, on demand	228	
LISBON.—		
Telegraphic Transfer	228	
Bank, on demand	228	
SINGAPORE.—		
Credit, at sight	79	
Private, 30 days sight	79	
OVERSEAS, Bank's Buying Rate.	60	

